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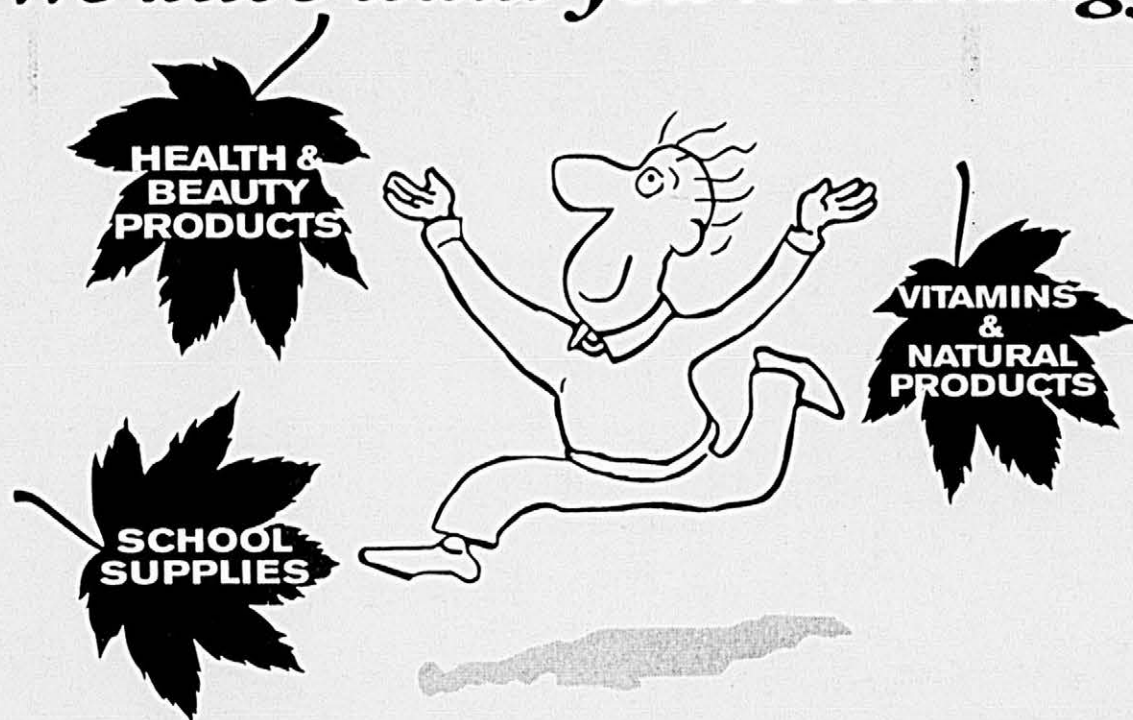
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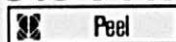
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EDDY BISHARA PHARMACY

Amnesty Vigil Makes a Call to End Violence

Hundreds of McGill students out in support of Mid-East peace

BY CAROLYN LEFEBVRE
News Reporter

Amnesty International held a Vigil for Hope on the steps of the Redpath Museum last night in response to the recent violence in the Middle East. 400 students attended the vigil, which presented an opportunity for students to express their grief in an apolitical atmosphere.

Despite the fact that McGill did not approve of the use of campus space for this type of event, Amnesty proceeded as planned anyhow.

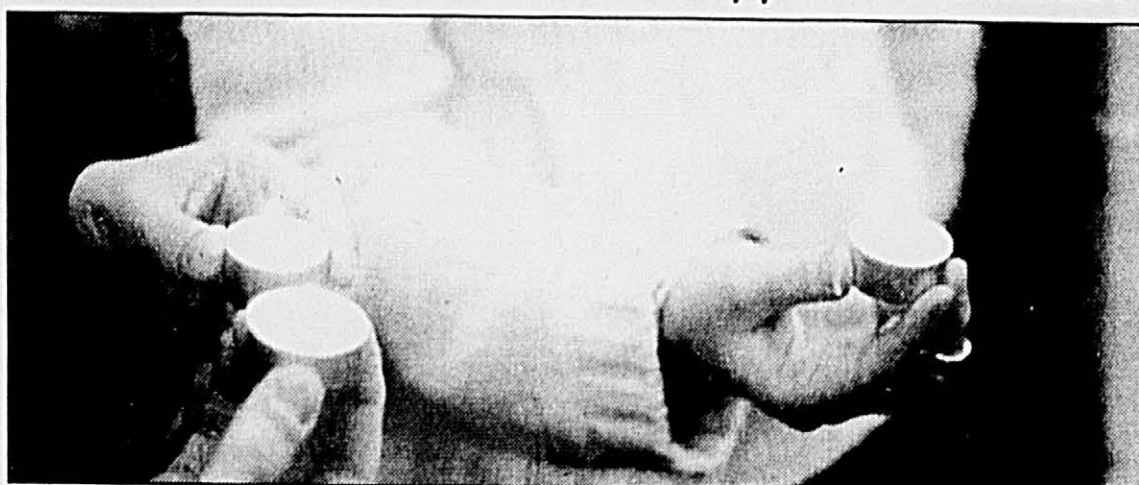
"McGill did not approve of this event, they preferred that it be held off campus," said Christopher Klyve, the organizer of the vigil.

Amnesty felt, however, that the Redpath Steps were the most neutral venue.

"We didn't want to use the suggested space in front of Shatner because it felt tainted since other rallies had already been held there," said Klyve.

The entire vigil lasted about 25 minutes. It started with candle lighting, then a member of Amnesty International read a poem by Maya Angelou. After, another member gave a speech in which she recounted the number of deaths and stressed that although the conflict has deep roots, people must recognize the importance of human rights above all. After the speech there was a moment of silence, followed by an opportunity to paint messages on a canvas.

"This is real stuff," said Sasha Goldstein, an Amnesty member clearly impressed by the turnout. "By the amount of candles here,



Sarah Bove

About 400 students turned out for Amnesty International's Vigil for Hope last night

I think people at McGill really do care."

The event was organized out of concern that both rallies supporting the Palestinians and the Israelis that had taken place at McGill over the past few weeks had been unnecessarily polarizing.

"I don't have a problem with a rally that wants to address a cause," said Klyve. "I respect that because it is a legitimate form of expression, but I don't like when things get violent."

Klyve thinks it's "sad when McGill students get represented as a riotous group who cause trouble." He described the vigil as "a chance for students who want to express their concerns but don't want to be seen as taking sides." The vigil, he stressed, was simply a chance to mourn the dead.

The idea of a neutral gathering, many students felt, was one whose time had come.

"It's way overdue," said Leemor Valin, a

U1 arts student. "I'm Israeli and my whole family is Israeli. For me, the rally for peace in solidarity with the state of Israel was so beautiful and it felt good to support something that I truly believe in and feel connected to. But I would rather have a combined rally. It's better to have something for everyone which is about peace."

Both the Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights and Hillel House student groups supported the event.

"It's a good thing," said the executive director of Hillel House, Simon Bensimon. "This is a confusing situation and [the vigil] is a time out for people to come together."

Although Bensimon supports what Amnesty International is doing, he defended Hillel's rally for peace in solidarity with Israel held last Monday.

"Each side supports what they feel should be supported," he said. "The Vigil is as legitimate as any other rally, but we have to be realistic, the communities are already polarized. During the peace process, there was a great opportunity for closing the gap, but this is a crisis."

Rasha Ayouby, who has been involved with the Palestinian student rallies, said that although she supports the idea of a vigil, she does not see how it can end the growing polarization.

"You can't just say 'I want peace,' and peace is going to mushroom," she said. "There can be no end by the click of a finger. You have to know why there isn't peace. If they felt there has been a polarization and this will change things, I wish them luck."

Amnesty International has called for an independent international inquiry into the human rights abuses that they suspect have occurred in the Middle East. They have also sent delegates to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip to investigate the situation and what they see as excessive force on the part of Israeli soldiers.

Although most students agreed that the Vigil was a good idea, some believed that it was not enough.

"I think it's a good thing to have a peaceful demonstration including Jews, Arabs, Canadians and Quebecers, but we should do something more to end the violence," said U1 Physiology student Rami Hourani.

Rachel Van Thyn, a UO arts student, agreed with Hourani's point of view.

"I wish it could have been longer but I think people weren't sure what to say," she said. "It's good that we took a stand and spoke out, not choosing sides, but saying we're against violence. This is an important statement to make."

Israeli Prof Speaks Out on the Middle East

BY SARAH LAZAROVIC
News Reporter

Conflicts in the Middle East are still flaring because Israel and Palestine are becoming "totally disinterested in a solution," according to Barry Rubin.

Rubin, a professor at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel, paid a visit to McGill on Monday and delivered a speech titled "Israel-Palestinian Crisis: Is there an end?" The event attracted hundreds of students, many of whom were left sitting on the floor of Leacock 429.

Rubin began by discussing the recent collapse of the peace process in the Middle East. He made a controversial claim that the collapse was due, in large part, to the Palestinians' failure to reach an agreement even after Israel's offer of East Jerusalem.

He also claimed that Palestinian tactics have included trying to earn undue sympathy from other Arab countries and the international media.

"The international media is not a reliable pillar to build a policy on," he said. "Neither is public opinion."

The repercussions of failed peace efforts, he continued, will include the undoing of recent gains and infrastructure in several Palestinian territories. Rubin added that continued border-closings would prohibit

the importation and exportation of goods and prevent many Palestinians who work in Israel from going to their jobs.

He wrapped up saying that the international community should look ahead with guarded optimism. Peace is still possible, he said, but recent events pose a major setback.

"This is certainly not the first tragedy in the Arab-Israeli conflict, but I certainly hope it will be the last," he said.

A question period following Rubin's speech turned heated when one student called Rubin's views biased and suggested that he "demonized Palestinians."

"Politically, you are going to ignore everything I have to say because it doesn't agree with your view," Rubin responded.

After the student walked out of the room in obvious frustration, Rubin continued, "It's a hell of an easy thing to sit in Montreal and contribute nothing except for rhetoric."

Though some students complained that the event hadn't left room for a more balanced discussion of the issues, the lecture's organizer explained that Rubin had been invited to present his opinions and not engage in a moderated debate.

"I don't see a need for this to be addressed in a debate form," said Political Science professor Harold Waller. "Today, [Professor Rubin] is presenting his point of view. We have all points of views represented at various times."

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New Environmental Policy Close to Completion

McGill may finally be on the verge of going green

BY ROBERTO ROCHA
News Reporter

What many were set to dismiss as a fruitless effort to make McGill more eco-friendly may be finally be paying off.

Last Wednesday, McGill's Environmental Policy Committee, an organizational arm of Senate's Physical Development Committee, convened to finalize an environmental policy that has been on the table since April. The policy, if approved by the Senate, would finally mean a coherent environmental program at McGill, where the existing program has been criticized as "one of the worst in Canada."

The new policy is expected to address concerns with the scarcity of recycling bins and campus waste policies which, many say, do little to minimize garbage.

The idea for the policy began with Greening McGill, a QPIRG-McGill working group focused exclusively on McGill's environmental practices. The group's work began in April, of 1999, following SSMU's passing of a motion to form a committee to deal with campus waste management.

Karlie Ziegler, who currently heads Greening McGill, says the policy being drafted goes far beyond recycling.

"We basically want to change the traditional mentality towards the environment at McGill," said Ziegler.

She explained that the policy will call

for wider use of double-sided paper and more efficient energy use.

"Another of our major concerns is the operation of McGill cafeterias. We want to implement the use of more efficient appli-

many good things will come out of this process."

Mirza and Seaborn spoke to a number of the reforms that will help make up the policy. Among the proposals are the estab-

lishment of permanent environmental committee in the Senate, and adjustments to McGill's purchasing policies.

"We want [McGill] to weigh the environmental costs of everything it purchases," explained Seaborn.

She went on to say that she hopes the policy becomes an integral part of the daily life at McGill.

"Like a policy on gender-neutral language that is present in all aspects of the university, we want environmental awareness to be equally all-pervading," said Seaborn.

"For example, in residences we want to install water-saving shower heads and remind students to save water and electricity, until this becomes a habit in everyone's lives."

The final draft of the environmental policy will be completed and made public by Nov. 23, when it will be submitted to the

Physical Development Committee. Following that committee's approval of the proposal, the matter will go before McGill's Senate.

Ziegler hopes that by this semester's end, a policy may finally be in place.

“ We want to make sure that every McGill student is environmentally literate. ”

ances, get students to bring their own mugs, and serve only fair trade coffee," Ziegler added.

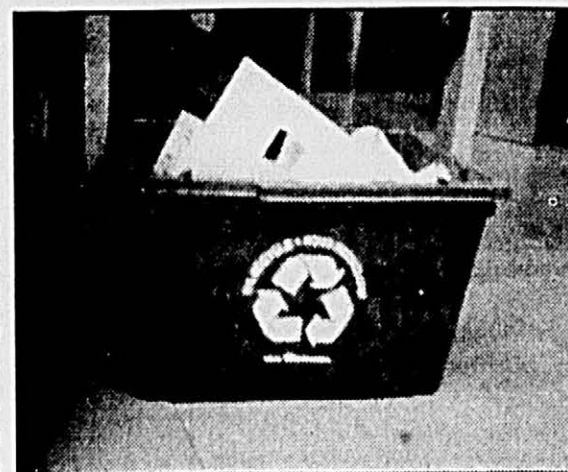
But Becky Lipton, a volunteer at QPIRG, said the new policy can only be effective if people's attitudes begin to change as well.

According to Lipton, giving people the option to recycle is not enough, but "having mandatory recycling bins in all offices is a step in the right direction," added Lipton.

"We want to set some institutional frameworks in order to achieve some of these larger long-term goals," she said.

Professor Saeed Mirza of McGill's Faculty of Engineering chairs the Environmental Policy committee.

"We want to make sure that every McGill student is environmentally literate," said Mirza. "[The committee] members are full of ideas, they are very sincere and passionate about it. We are sure



McGill may be seeing a lot more of these very soon

From elections to erections.
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News meetings (drop-in) - Mondays, 4-6
Culture meetings - Fridays, 4:30

THE MCGILL DAILY

Protecting your health.

Barbara Beattie works with her detector dog Rookie and her colleagues at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. They help stop forbidden items from entering Canada that could damage our plants and animals or contaminate our food supply. This is just one of many services aimed at protecting the health of all Canadians.

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A Student's Guide to Voting in the Federal Election

Otherwise known as: How to Keep Stockwell Out of Office



elections

With the federal election only weeks away, many students on campus are wondering how to make sure that their votes count. Here's how you can make sure that you will have your chance to vote.

How do I know where or if I am registered?

Approximately 12 days after an election is called, you should receive at your

'ordinary residence' a voter information card (VIC) in the mail. If you do not receive the VIC, you need to contact the returning officer for your riding to ensure that you are registered. The addresses and telephone numbers of the returning officers for all ridings are posted at the Elections Canada website, www.elections.ca. If you don't know the name of your electoral district, call 1-800-INFO-VOTE to find out.

How do I vote if I am residing out-of-riding?

Voters must vote where they are registered, which in most cases is your 'ordinary residence.' Your ordinary residence – the place you call home – is the place where you intend to return when away from it, studying or travelling.

If you are living away from home, you will need to vote by special ballot.

There are three ways you can apply to vote by special ballot:

- Go to the SSMU reception desk and request a copy of the Application for Registration and Special Ballot.
- If you have internet access, you can download or simply print the Application for Registration and Special Ballot. It is located at www.elections.ca/ele/spe/form_e.html
- If you don't have access to the internet, you can request the Application for Registration and Special Ballot from Elections Canada in Ottawa. Contact them by mail, by telephone or by fax.

Once you have the application, fill it out, and mail or fax it to Elections Canada in Ottawa. Remember to include photocopies of the relevant valid identification: either a single document bearing your name, address and signature, or a combination of two documents, one with your name and address (i.e. a utility bill)

and the other with your name and signature (i.e. an ID card).

Elections Canada should immediately send you a personalized voting kit on receipt of your fax.

Follow the instructions in your voting kit precisely.

Mail your ballot to Elections Canada in Ottawa early enough that they will receive the ballot no later than 6:00 p.m., Ottawa time, on polling day, November 27th.

How do I vote if Montreal is my permanent home?

Wait to receive your Voter Information Card (VIC). It should arrive at your residence approximately 12 days after the election is called. The VIC tells you if you are correctly registered to vote and also tells you where your polling station is located.

On Election day, November 27, the polls in Montreal will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. If you can't make it to the polls on November 27, advance polls, open from noon until 8 p.m., will be held ten, nine and seven days before the election. Consult your VIC for details.

If you are not registered you can still register as you vote on election day, assuming you provide valid identification such as a driver's licence or one piece of identification showing your name and address, and another showing your name and signature.

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- by Philip Todd

CSU Kept Fraud Under Wraps

President knew of \$200,000 deficit three months ago

BY ARIEL TROSTER
The Link, Montreal

According to Concordia Student Union President Rob Green, a faulty administrative structure, coupled with his own financial inexperience, allowed a \$196,000 fraud to go undetected and unreported for several months.

While Green and the other vice presidents remain tight-lipped about the identity of the suspect, or the way the fraud was carried out, he said that the CSU didn't have the structures in place to properly control the organization's almost \$1 million budget. Green said this made it easier for an unnamed suspect to embezzle almost 20 per cent of the organization's annual budget.

"It's not that I was blind to finances, I was blind to the kind of structural changes that needed to be made," Green said. He said the Union lacked a comprehensive system of financial controls, and that too much power rested in the hands of two cheque-signers. Until last week, the President and the Vice President Finance had sole signing authority over the CSU's accounts. After discovering the fraud, the CSU's lawyer François Longpré recommended that signing authority be switched over to General Manager Rick Stom and Council Chair Patrice Blais. Longpré also proposed an administrative overhaul which was implemented at Thursday evening's Council meeting.

Still, Green admits that he and the vice presidents have "some egg on our faces," because they continued to trust the suspect with exclusive financial control, and failed to consult professionals early enough in the process. The CSU also didn't complete an audit last fiscal year, which allowed the fraud to go undetected.

According to Green, the CSU's bookkeeper Amad Mahboub discovered a deficit of almost \$200,000 in August 2000, and it took him until the beginning of October to trace the source of the irregularities.

"We needed to confirm whether the deficit was really there," Green said. "In our attempts to find out, we continued to trust the wrong person."

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

"Somebody there should stand up and say 'we screwed up,' because somebody did," said Rabih Sebaaly, president of the

Commerce and Administration Students' Association. president can be recalled to election after students submit a petition with approximately 2000 signatures to the Chief Electoral Officer.

POLICE INVESTIGATION

Montreal Urban Community police constable Andréanne Sasseville confirmed that an official criminal complaint was filed by the CSU last Tuesday concerning the fraud. The investigation is being handled by the MUC police's fraud section, but police never comment until the end of the investigation, Sasseville said. She couldn't say when the investigation would end.

“It's not that I was blind to finances, I was blind to the kind of structural changes that need to be made.”

Commerce and Administration Students' Association.

Sebaaly said he supports the "innocent bystanders" who had no part in the fraud, but wants to see checks and balances put in place to prevent future embezzlement.

Green acknowledges that students may accuse him of covering up the fraud.

"I can understand people feeling the need to blame someone, but under the circumstances, I really didn't do anything wrong," he said. "I'd love to quit right now, but I'm staying out of concern for the organization."

Green said that if students recalled an election, he wouldn't resign from his position. According to CSU bylaw 12.4, the

Longpré explained that due to the police's request, CSU executives were asked by the police not to discuss the incident because of the ongoing investigation.

"It might be easier for the CSU to reveal everything, but we must work within a legal framework allowing the police to do their investigation."

The lawyer said he hopes criminal charges will be pressed against the suspect at the end of the investigation.

"As any citizen, I would like this kind of conduct to go before the courts."

Longpré added that the CSU has three years to launch a civil suit if they want to reclaim the missing \$196,000.

- additional reporting by Pierre-Olivier Savoie

CSU FRAUD: A TIMELINE

August 2000

• Bookkeeper Amad Mahboub discovers a deficit of almost \$200,000. He informs the CSU President. The vice presidents attribute this to transfer payments that hadn't been received from the university. Dean of Students Donald Boisvert confirmed this week that the payments had been made in April 2000.

September 5, 2000

• President Rob Green e-mails the Union's lawyer François Longpré, and asks him to help the CSU set up a position of corporate controller in order to help track the financial irregularities. Green doesn't report the deficit to the CSU Council, to the university, or to the bank.

• Green sets up a series of meetings between the VP Finance, the bookkeeper, the General Manager, and the vice presidents. Unable to track the source of the missing money, they suspect that the bank stubs got lost in the University's internal mail. The matter stays under wraps.

September 26, 2000

• Accreditation drive begins. CSU Executive still unable to track the missing money. They keep the matter secret.

October 4, 2000

• The bookkeeper intercepts the bank receipts. The fraud is discovered.

October 5, 2000

• The suspect is suspended by President Rob Green. The CSU hires a forensic auditor.

October 11, 2000

• CSU Council is informed of the fraud during a closed-door meeting. The Council ratifies the appointment of the forensic auditor. Signing authority is switched from the VP Finance and the President to General Manager Rick Stom and Chair of Council Patrice Blais. The matter is kept from the public. The Council authorizes the CSU to release the evidence they collected to the police, in order to lay criminal charges.

October 12, 2000

• Accreditation drive passes. The university is informed of the fraud. The bank, which received a summary warning on October 6, is advised in detail the next day.

October 17, 2000

• The CSU finally issues a press release revealing that \$196,000 had been embezzled from the Union. CSU President answers questions by e-mail only.

October 19, 2000

• At a CSU Council meeting, the Union implements an administrative overhaul that institutes a series of financial controls.

Is Accreditation Coming To McGill?

Student leaders weigh options following successful accreditation drive at Concordia

BY CHRISTOPHER NEEDLES
The McGill Daily

A years-long campaign to accredit the Concordia Student Union finally succeeded earlier this month, in what student leaders have deemed a major victory for autonomy and a call for student societies at McGill to accredit as well.

"We would definitely encourage SSMU to accredit," said CSU VP Communications Tom Keefer recently. He said CSU has been spurred on by the success on the recent vote at Concordia and that accreditation marks an opportunity for student governments in need of greater autonomy from their universities.

Bill 32, the recent provincial legislation pertaining to accreditation, gives student unions official recognition by Quebec's government. According to Keefer, accreditation provides student unions like CSU

with more autonomy in the form of financial security, guarantees of on-campus facilities, and representation on university decision-making bodies.

But the push to accredit that has led to referenda at nearly every one of Quebec's universities has yet to reach McGill. Although McGill's Law Students' Association accredited last year, this university's biggest student societies, SSMU and PGSS remain unaccredited.

But SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak said that, while he's happy for the CSU, student associations at McGill are in no rush to accredit.

"Every situation is unique, and Concordia and McGill face very, very different situations."

According to Baraniak, SSMU's current agreements with McGill afford SSMU most of the rights offered under accreditation.

PGSS Chair, Aaron Windsor agreed. He

said he is not so sure that accreditation is necessary at McGill. He explained that PGSS considered accrediting two years ago but that, ultimately, the idea was rejected.

"Accreditation does offer some guarantees, but the problem lies in the fact that everything is stated at the absolute minimum. If anything," he said, "it would put the university in a position to take things away that we already have," said Windsor.

He points to the fact that the Bill only guarantees the student association a single furnished room, whereas PGSS and SSMU already have much larger facilities.

Baraniak nonetheless said that SSMU was not ruling out the possibility of accrediting, while Windsor said PGSS is once again considering accreditation.

Law Students' Association President Allen Mendelsohn called accreditation "an important safety net," that guarantees the association a number of rights in its rela-

tionship with McGill. That's why LSA launched its own ultimately successful accreditation drive last year.

"There really hasn't been any tangible benefit," he admitted, "but we believe there is a positive element of security for the future."

Keefer said that, in CSU's case, official recognition by the Quebec government was an even greater guarantee of freedom.

"Accreditation is a progressive law that benefits all student societies," he said. "This will force the university to listen to students more. Before [accreditation] any rights could have been taken away by university administration at any time," he added.

Over 10,000 students turned out for the Concordia vote that began in September and ended earlier this month. In the end, about 67 per cent voted in favour of accrediting. It is not believed that the vote will be



Baraniak: "Every situation is unique."

affected by current turmoil following the discovery that CSU had been defrauded of nearly \$200,000.



University Prez Blasts Meeting with Stockwell Day

BY TONI DE JONG
Brock Press, St. Catherine's

Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day spoke to a select group of students at Brock University, upsetting even the university's president who said closing the meeting was unnecessary.

Day's last minute plan to speak directly to students at Brock Tuesday came as a surprise to most of the campus, with the exception of a group of 25 students, mostly from the business department, chosen in advance as his audience.

The Alliance leader officially informed Brock administration of his arrival late Monday night. Despite the opportunity to have a federal party leader on campus, university president David Atkinson said he had concerns.

"I would have preferred that Mr. Day would have come in and we would have had an open forum, and he would have an opportunity with the students wherever to hear him. That's not the way it happened."

Approximately 100 students, either feeling left out of the talk or the party's long-term priorities, filled the lobby of the building where Day was speaking and chanted "Sexist, racist, anti-gay! Please don't vote for Stockwell Day."

Inside, Day fielded questions regarding capital gains taxes, defence policy, national unity and high-tech industries.

Education, health care, and other social concerns were left out of the discussion.

University president Atkinson said he was surprised none of the students who attended the meeting asked questions about education.

"Of the questions that were asked, the ones that really should have been lobbed out of the ballpark weren't," said Atkinson, who allowed the proceedings to run overtime, despite concerns by campaign organizers, in hopes that students would ask questions related to education.

"I was told that this was an opportunity for a group of students to ask questions of the official leader of the opposition," he said.

"I was going to end it when I was going to end it... if a student had a question I feel he or she had the right to ask it."

Michael Conlon, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, thinks that the Alliance doesn't see a role for education in the federal domain. The income contingent loan scheme could be a disaster if it is the federal government's only form of student aid, he added.

Conlon says that if the Alliance wins the federal election, Day's plan will increase the cost of education. He pointed out that while Day was treasurer of Alberta, tuition increases were the largest in the province's history. According to StatsCan figures, university tuition in Alberta has increased more than 200 per cent since 1990.

Cutbacks Hurt Students: Report

Report shows concretely that higher tuition fees make up for lost funding

BY HOLLY BECK
News Reporter

A recently released Statistics Canada report draws a strong relationship between steadily declining government education funding and rising Canadian university tuition fees. According to the report, both tuition fees and the percentage of university revenue for which they account have increased year after year over the past decade. At the same time, the amount of government contributions to university revenues has consistently dropped, though the level did remain unchanged two years ago for the first time since 1993.

Stats Can showed that the average tuition increase across Canada for the current academic year ranges from three to seven per cent. This is significantly lower than the average increase over the past five years, which has been anywhere from seven to twelve per cent. Nevertheless, the trend of increasing university tuitions has been firmly entrenched since the 1981-82 academic year.

This report only confirmed what Phil Ilijevsky, the Quebec head of the Canadian Federation of Students, has known for quite some time.

"Tuition is still on the rise, and it's not going to stop any time soon," said Ilijevsky. "It's something we thought of a couple of years ago. We gave out warnings that it's going to be endless, and it's going to be a lot higher than the amount of inflation over the years. The Stats Can report just showed that the federal government, and also the provincial governments, aren't committed to keeping education attainable anymore."

Jeremy Farrell, SSMU's VP Community and Government Affairs,

believes that while the provinces are directly responsible for funding post-secondary education, the federal government handcuffs them by not making high enough transfer payments.

"There's the general federal government spending, and then there's the provincial government spending," said Farrell. "Tuition is more directly correlated to how much the provincial govern-

ment is willing to spend. At the same time, the provincial governments can only spend what they have, and if the federal government doesn't give them enough money to spend, the result is that students have to pay more."

In fact, the Stats Can report attributes the increase in tuition fees to universities' attempts to compensate for reduced government support.

Government contributions, which accounted for 74 per cent of university revenues in 1981-82, made up only 55 per cent of revenues in 1998-99.

Farrell explained that the position of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, of which SSMU is a member, is that public investment in education is needed for Canada to remain competitive on the global scale.

"You can't have a system of government in a country that's based on the development of people and knowledge and information, so they can be highly skilled and compete in an international environment, and then say, we're not

going to fund education," said Farrell. Although the Stats Can findings came as no surprise to Farrell, he did view it as a step in the right direction.

"What we're happy about is that in the report, our argument was legitimized," said Farrell. "It is now a documented fact that transfer cuts directly resulted in less funding for universities."

Ilijevsky went even further than Farrell, relating the withdrawal of government funds to the move towards privatization of Canadian universities.

"We're seeing higher user fees, more corporate involvement, and further privatization," said Ilijevsky. "What ends up happening is corporations can move in, and there's a lot of money to be made."

The goal of the CFS is to push the government to eliminate tuition fees completely.

"Our objective is zero tuition, eventually," said Ilijevsky. "In 1996, Canada signed a UN pact that would guarantee free tuition for post-secondary school, and we just want Canada and the provinces to live up to that."

Nova Scotia undergraduate arts fees, at \$4,408, are currently the highest in Canada. Average tuition fees in Ontario, Alberta, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan all increased this year, with the highest average increase being 7.7 per cent in Saskatchewan. Students attending Quebec universities from out-of-province are faced with a 7.8 per cent increase for the current academic year. For the fourth straight year, tuition fees in Quebec have been frozen for Quebec residents at \$1,668. This amount is less than half the average level in other provinces, making undergraduate fees for Quebec residents the lowest in Canada.

“The Stats Can report just showed that the federal government, and also the provincial governments, aren't committed to keeping education attainable anymore.”

Deconstructing 'I Am Canadian'

Leading Canadian commentators discuss society, citizenship and the future

BY PAUL REEVE
The McGill Daily

"Twenty years from now, where will we be as a society?" A gaggle of academics, politicians, and journalists gathered in Montreal at the "Citizenship 2020" conference last weekend to discuss this very question, among others, on the present and future of citizenship in Canada.

The conference, organized by the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, featured a number of high-profile speakers, including former Quebec premier Pierre-Marc Johnson, Lieutenant General Romeo Dallaire, former federal NDP leader Ed Broadbent, and University of Toronto philosopher Mark Kingwell.

Workshops were organized around a few central themes: Immigration, Civics Education, and Citizenship itself.

The issue of Citizenship spawned passionate workshops on the role of aboriginals in the Canadian political system and the role of corporations in civil society and the legal system.

In a workshop about the place of the aboriginal population in Canada's social and political fabric, Tom Flanagan, University of Calgary political science professor and author of a book entitled *First Nations, Second Thoughts*, squared off against Keith Myiow, member of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake.

Asserting that the idea of a "nation" that has been applied to aboriginals has changed drastically since most treaty negotiations took place, Flanagan lamented a situation where, he said, "it's become hard to call a community a

'nation' without making a political commitment."

"I am not a Canadian, and I will never be a Canadian," replied Mr. Myiow, expressing disgust at the attitudes of speakers in the other sessions at the conference. Staring icily at the session's sparse audience, he issued a challenge to the Canadian government to "be honest" in its dealings with Canada's native peoples, and to recognize that treaty-based payments to aboriginals are Canadians' "rent" to live on territory that belongs to natives. He cited recent conflicts between a Mi'kmaq band and the federal government over the lobster fishery in Burnt Church, N.B. as a failure on the part of the Canadian government to treat natives with respect and live up to its treaty obligations.

"They expect us to go quietly into the night, but that's not going to happen," he said.

In a session on "Corporate Citizenship," former federal NDP leader Ed Broadbent and Claude Beauchamps, host of Radio-Canada's Réseau de l'information, debated the merits of policies favouring corporations.

In a fiery speech, Broadbent argued that "human rights should trump the protection of corporate interests when they are in conflict." The corporate politics of the moment have governments sacrificing the rights of citizens for the sake of profits, he said.

He drew attention to international intellectual property laws that have recently been criticized for rendering access to many life-saving drugs in the Third World difficult or impossible, due to inflated prices maintained by companies with patents.

He also mentioned a recent study showing that roughly 80% of think tanks consulted by Canadian media are right wing.

Beauchamps argued that political support for corporate interests is necessary to create the affluence required for a functioning democracy. He claimed that Canadian media's disproportionate citation of right-wing think tanks like the Fraser Institute is "because they make more figures available," a claim that was greeted with jeers and heckling from the audience.

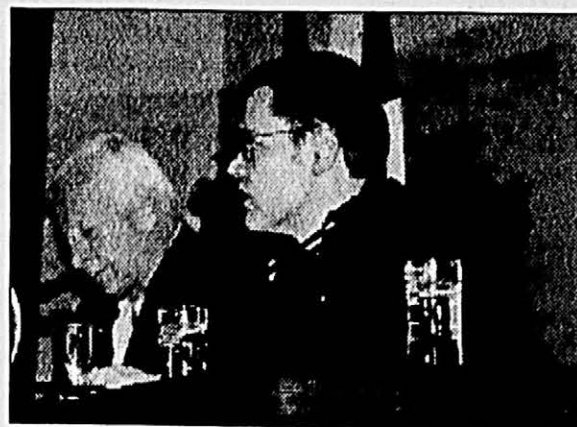
In a less controversial plenary session on Saturday morning, Mark Kingwell proposed that a new idea of citizenship is needed, one which is not tied to national boundaries or based on the historically dominant

principles of "blood, belief, or law." In place of these should be a participatory arrangement, where engagement in politics is "both the task and the condition" of citizenship. In other words, voting should be legally required, he said.

Citing a compulsory voting policy already in place in Australia since 1924, he said "it's a matter of internalizing norms through action." This would involve using "the old combi-

nation of carrot and stick" in the form of fines and tax breaks.

"Citizenship should be the primary role" of each person, he added.



Canadian philosopher Mark Kingwell

Six Arrested in Toronto Anti-Harris Protest

BY JD PALMER
Excalibur, Toronto

Toronto police arrested six people Friday who were protesting the annual provincial Progressive Conservative policy convention.

About 200 students objecting to the introduction of private universities and cuts to post-secondary education clashed with police when a group entered the CBC building across from the Metro Toronto Convention Centre where the Tories were meeting.

"We don't want to let the police destroy our message. I was at the protest to demonstrate against the long legacy of cutbacks to education," says Jesse Black-Allen, a York student who was charged with obstructing justice.

At the Tory policy meeting Premier Mike Harris entertained delegates, ministers and members of the press. A large police presence and metal barricades separated more than 1,000 protestors from the convention.

Tensions between police and protestors were high all afternoon. The arrests were made as students attempted to enter the CBC building across the street from the Convention

Centre, in order to join a group of students who were already inside, planning to make a statement to the CBC regarding their anger at the Harris government.

Six people were arrested on charges that ranged from obstruction of police to assaulting a peace officer. Police said in a press release that the suspects were trying to gain entry into a secure area and "attacked police lines."

All six have been released on bail.

Some students are not surprised the protestors clashed with police.

"It is incredible that people who are such advocates of democracy and freedom — as left wing people are on campus — would actually try to be recognized by violence," says Roman Baber, former president of York's campus PC Party.

Nevertheless, the activists remain firm in their anti-Tory stance. "The Tory government has taken away all the funding, all our programs, has taken away any democratic right we have, any choices on health care, education, no one wants private universities, they've done it anyway," says Henaway.

-with files from the Varsity

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Slibel & Lander

Keep
Slibel in
your
pants!

Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

From the Why It Sucks to be An Anarchist department: noted local activist Jaggi Singh was singing the blues earlier this week as the cops picked him up in their **G-20 crackdown**. Trouble is, Jaggi wasn't even near the action, nor did he have anything to do with it. Last Slibel heard, Singh's still in custody....Slibel is feeling the pain for cracker jack Stock Day. First Stockie uses a booming high tech firm to explain why things are so awful in Canada, then he boosts his brain drain claims by explaining that the Great Lakes flow inland. Frankly, if Day could just unlearn both official languages then he would be great material to replace the PM....Slibel lost a wad on Nortel yesterday. Just doesn't seem fair that great stocks go down as well as up. May have to talk to **Big Daddy Chretien** with his overflowing purse and see if maybe greedy investors can finally get a break....Election time and the chins are wagging. Two chins in particular that performed a rather awkward 'We've been enemies, but now we're friends' hug at a big rubber chicken affair in Toronto. **Mulroney and Clark** were together again to prop up the withered corpse of Canadian conservatism. Seems

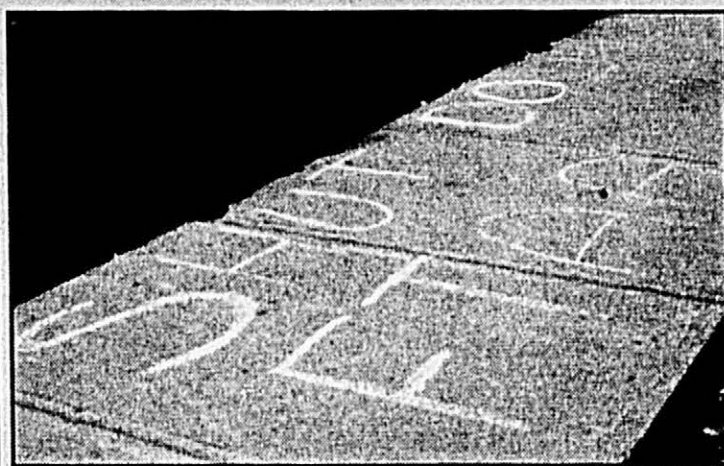
like Joe is so desperate that he will even ask old Mr. Evil himself to pump some hands for him. How far they've fallen....Slibel is impressed with the new whiz bang **MUSE2** system. All the new options are a little overwhelming but Slibel can't help but wonder what happened to those old machines. They are a piece of television, and even McGill, history. Turns out, once **Willie Shatner** said bye to Bones and the rest of 'em and closed up shop on the original **Star Trek**, he decided that his alma mater could probably use the technology and so he sent the innards of the **Enterprise** to your fine folks at the libraries who subsequently set up a cute little catalogue and finally got around to updating it this year.

ON TRACK ON CRACK

ON TRACK: Robert Sim. The PGSS Senator saved the day at Senate yesterday by showing VP Academic Luc Vinet how to use PowerPoint.

ON CRACK: Dick Pound. McGill's esteemed chancellor and IOC VP was heard saying that trampolining is a good Olympic sport because it creates more Paralympians.

CAMPUS EYE by Brie O'Keefe



Chalk up this sidewalk drawing on campus to anti-free trade activism!

ROOMMATES by John Paul Koning



comics@mcgilldaily.com

Teng should get his facts straight



BY DONNY PHILLIPS

In his article "Activists, Radicals, Socialists... Pinklings All," Jack Teng asks, presumably as an attempt to argue against debt relief for third world countries, "Precisely what percentage of the population would be willing to pay taxes to help out some loser country they've never even heard of?" An interesting question, given that people already have paid many billions of dollars in taxes to help out several "loser" countries, at the behest of the IMF and the World Bank, without our consent or knowledge.

As those countries struggle to pay back the debt, it is estimated by UNICEF that almost 19,000 children a day die "as a result of debt," i.e. because the IMF demands before it lends money out to countries that those countries severely cut back on social programs, and because after the loan is received, the country then has to pay it back (plus massive quantities of interest), which most of the time they cannot afford to do.

It has already been admitted by the IMF and World Bank that there is little chance of getting much of the money back, and while the organizations make constant lip service to debt relief they have been continually waffling their feet. Debt relief would basically mean allowing these countries to pay attention to the needs of their populations again instead of filling up the coffers of global economic institu-

tions. And since we've already paid the money, nobody would have to pay any more taxes whatsoever. So, when Teng implies that debt relief would mean paying more taxes, he's completely wrong. For someone who attacks activists for being "politically incoherent," as well as "uninformed and gullible" Teng could at least get his own facts straight.

I also particularly enjoyed it when Teng wrote that not "until we shake our appetite for gas-guzzling SUVs" will we no longer "remain in the status quo." Yeah, the campus is just swarmed with student activists riding around in SUVs (most of the activists I know don't even have a car, let alone an SUV). Teng also says, "It is they [the activists]...who make all this happen with our ridiculous consumption that creates the market for sweat-shop made designer clothes..." Exactly how are the people who suggest an end to globalization and therefore to huge corporations moving into places like China and Vietnam responsible for sweatshops? Personally I think capitalists deserve a little credit where credit is due.

Send your hyde parks, letters and anything else to us at
letters@mcgilldaily.com

WRITE FOR THE MCGILL DAILY

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MONDAY 4:00 TO 6:00 PM

CULTURE MEETINGS:
FRIDAY 4:30 PM

PHOTOGRAPHY MEETINGS:
MONDAY 5:00 PM

MIND&BODY MEETINGS:
FRIDAY 5:00 PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!
ALL MEETINGS IN SHATNER B-03

John Ortved will forever be
The ART DUMMY

The Supermarket Acid Test

There is an acid test that exists to weed out those unfit to live in our consumer society and it involves the supermarket (both your and my favourite place to spend a Friday night). By observing your behaviour in a supermarket, it can be decided if you have the wits to survive and (dare I say) benefit our commercial society, or, whether you would be cast out into the wilderness and abandoned, like they did in Ancient Sparta if you weren't physically perfect.

The Supermarket Acid Test is a simple evaluation of whether we have the courtesy and pragmatism necessary to thrive in our modern world of supermarkets, superhighways, and supermen.

It begins with the cart. If you cannot free your cart from its prison of the other carts, you do not belong on earth. It is a simple process that can be accomplished painlessly and for the most part, noiselessly. If you ever find yourself in a position where you are asking a clerk or shelf-stocker for help detaching your cart from his friends, you fail.

We move to the aisles. There is a simple practice that has been followed for years that some of you should probably think about grasping. It involves shopping on

either side of an aisle. There is inevitably traffic in any given aisle. If you place your cart pretty much anywhere but dead centre, chances are, people can get by without having to distort their body in any uncomfortable positions. On the other hand, if you insist on leaving your cart in the center of an aisle, you create a situation where people want to do bad things to you and your family. And your family's friends and their pets. You rouse so much anger and hatred, you should be working for Stockwell Day in your spare time. You fail.

We come to the checkout. Now this is a test for both you and the supermarket employees. Personally, I am cursed. No matter where the lineup, Provigo, McDonalds; I end up choosing the queue where the cashier is a trainee, learning his or her job. I am cursed with the trainee. I am attracted to them like a magnet; I have a sixth sense that immediately places me in the lineup that is guaranteed to be the slowest and most frustrating. In the course of my short life, trainees have cost me at very least, weeks of my time. Because of my curse, when I die, the inscription on my tombstone will read, "Killed By Trainees," that is how much time these people have taken from me. They fail.

The customer is by no means innocent in this stage of the game. If you have selected a product at some point in your shopping experience, chances are, you wanted it for one reason or another. The decision to discard an item at the cash is completely unacceptable. What is to prevent people from putting as much stuff in their carts as they can fit, then deciding once they're at the cash exactly what it is they want. It would be chaos I tell you, chaos. You fail.

(Sidenote: The only reason I can actually think of for legalizing marijuana is so that people will start doing shit like that.)

The other inexcusable shopper is someone I like to call Mr./Ms. Forgetful (or Chretien, if they're senile as well). They are the people who forgot a single item (or promise, like ridding us of the GST) and feel it is within their rights to delay the entire lineup for several minutes while they go find it. These people should be made to watch as we drown their kittens and eat their homemade jams. They are no better than common criminals and should serve time for the amount of pain and suffering they cause the rest of us. They fail.

So what if you failed the test? What if you are one of these people? What if you

just weren't made to thrive in supermarket situations? Then you're like me. While I attempt to play by the rules whenever I shop, sometimes I just can't help myself from a little supermarket deviance: putting random articles in other people's carts, eating while I shop, playing bumper cars with any octogenarians who are game. The truth is, I find the supermarket a horrible, stressful, place. It frightens me and shopping makes me altogether uncomfortable. It reminds of an airport in its character and the mental state of its patrons. If St. Laurent weren't so far from my apartment, I'd never set foot in Metro or any other market of the super kind. The smorgasbord of specialty shops between Milton and Duluth (on St. Laurent) provide anything you'll ever

need, often at comparable prices and always in a better atmosphere. Also, you get to support mom and pop boulangeries and patisseries instead of giant supermarket chains. So if you fail the test, you do not have to pay someone to do your shopping while you sit at home, taking advantage of the one-time opportunity to purchase the Classic Shirley Temple Collection, your alternative to Metro and Provigo is only as far away as St. Laurent. I fail the supermarket Acid test and I hope to God (Jebus?) that if you're reading this, you do to.

The Commentary Pages are proud to welcome The Art Dummy to his new home here. Direct your outrage to letters@mcgilldaily.com

TITANS OF LITERATURE BATTLING FAMOUS MOVIE MONSTERS (formerly McLouse)

by Steve Barker



SAVE THE ENDOWMENT FUND

While I commend you for keeping an eye on how McGill is spending its money (feature, October 5), I don't think your argument to dip into the endowment fund is merited.

Your theory that they are building the endowment to build prestige is probably correct, and in my opinion, it's a good decision. McGill needs to build and maintain its reputation to be on par with the Ivy League... it is this prestige that will attract the best students, the most research grants, and, ultimately, convince McGill alumni to give even more to their school. Call it elitist if you must, but it's a cycle of prosperity that few other Canadian schools have a possibility of attaining, and if it's not McGill that grabs hold, it will be

Queen's or U of T leaving us in their tracks.

There is no question that the university is falling apart before our eyes, but let's not put smart, long-term financial planning for the university at fault. McGill deserves a cash infusion from the government; we shouldn't have to risk our long-term prosperity to fix a few leaky roofs.

Brett Tabor
McGill Management student studying abroad in Burkina Faso

Because of the volume of letters we have been receiving as of late, we've had to save some for the next issue. Keep on sending them along to letters@mcgill-daily.com. Remember to include your full name, year and program.

letters



PRO-LIFE CATHOLICS AREN'T CATHOLICS

After reading the column by Fembot (Oct. 23rd), I felt no hatred towards the anonymous author for holding pro-abortion beliefs but rather I was irritated by her uneducated and at times flippant remarks about my much-loved Church.

I mean, give your readers some reliable facts Fembot, not some silly numbers put out by a clearly biased anti-Catholic group. As a practicing, Pro-Life Christian Catholic, (is there any other type?), I was offended. The catechism of the Catholic Church states clearly the following regarding abortion:

"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his/her existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person- among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life." Jer. 1:5 & Ps. 139:15

NO ambiguity is present in the church's beliefs concerning this issue! Now, on the subject of how does an individual proclaiming to be "Catholic" or a group using "Catholic" in its name, such as "Catholics" for a Free Choice, support a woman's decision to have an abortion? Well, in my eyes and in the eyes of other practicing Roman Catholics, in contrast to cafeteria Catholics who pick and choose the beliefs which suit them best, these people are not speaking as fellow Catholics, but rather as well-mean-

ing people who hold completely opposite views than the Church.

Furthermore, these pro-abortionists shouldn't be affiliating themselves with the Catholic Church in an effort to attract attention. Do you really think his Holiness JPII hasn't heard of these dissident groups? Of course he has, but a condemnation from the Holy See would only give them more unneeded attention. (Might I add, that one of CFFC founding members crowned herself pope on the steps of St. Patrick Cathedral in New York City—sound Catholic? I don't think so!)

The Church isn't forcing its beliefs upon anyone, in contrast She gives each individual the free will and intellect necessary to opt to search for another religion that better suits their beliefs or to stay and accept Church Doctrine (or as Fembot so eloquently referred to it as "the whole bag" of "shit"), including convictions such as the sanctity of life from conception until natural death, not just the belief in the "Father, Son, Holy Spirit, angels." So, by all means "come out of the closet," people who are pro-abortion, but don't do it under the false alias of proclaiming to be Catholics!

George Marchetti
UO Arts student

ABORTION NEVER JUSTIFIED

I was incensed at the October 23rd article in the Fembot Column, but this letter is not only addressed to the writer of that piece, but also to every reader who read her work and thought to himself, "You know? That girl has a point." Frankly Fembot, I don't believe you do.

Flippantly stating you would be "bored in Heaven" and that the "fires of hell are looking mighty inviting" during Montreal winters may have sounded cute to you, but

it lent very little to the case you tried pathetically to present.

The issue of pro-life versus pro-abortion isn't one that can be debated by sighting facts such as, "69 percent of Catholics believe that a woman who aborts a fetus for reasons other than saving her life can still be a good Catholic." Firstly, she is not a good Catholic, no matter what other Catholics say. She is violating Church doctrine. This does not, however, mean she is not a good person, and it certainly doesn't mean she can't repent. Secondly, the entire Catholic population and every person of the world in general could endorse abortion and that STILL wouldn't make it ok, under any circumstance. The taking of a life at its most helpless stage is a crime, not a choice.

The Pope is well aware that much of the Catholic contingency does not back him on his anti-artificial birth control/sex before marriage/abortion beliefs; reading these opinions on the internet would not shock his Holiness in the slightest. Nor would it cause him to alter his opinion. The Church and her Pope do not need the approval of the people to dictate what is morally right and wrong, in any circumstance. The Church's official standpoint on life is that it should be respected from the moment of conception to that of natural death. This means from the split-second an egg is fertilized, it is a tiny person and the taking of that life is a vicious crime.

It is not my or any other Catholic's job to judge those around her, and it is not up to anyone save God to decide where you will spend eternity. However, in the case of abortion, God and the Vatican are very clear on their principles, and opinions on a website are not going to change the fact that abortion is the taking of a life and is never justified.

Emily A. Bessette



Brie O'Keefe

Hundreds of demonstrators welcome G-20 summit, get beaten back by Montreal cops

BY DAMIEN BUTVICK
News Writer

Activists took to the streets Monday afternoon to protest the Group of 20 summit being held in Montreal this week. The demonstrators accused the G-20 — a forum for financial representatives from 19 countries, the European Union, the IMF and the World Bank — of subverting due democratic process, since it can have a major impact on financial systems without being accountable to the electorate of its member countries.

The rally turned violent in the evening when, in response to some protesters who had hurled projectiles, the Montreal Urban

Community Police attempted to disperse the crowd. 39 arrests were made at the riot and an additional seven individuals were arrested at another demonstration on Tuesday. Among the individuals arrested on Monday was a group of 20 demonstrators who had been sitting together peacefully.

Gabrielle Matte, a U1 Art History student at McGill, was one of the non-violent protesters arrested Monday while sitting down. Calling the police force "imposing" and "unnecessary," Matte felt particularly annoyed by her group's arrest.

"I think most of the people participating in this demonstration had something to say politically and they weren't particularly violent people," said Matte.

"We were 20 people who decided to sit down after a guy was smashed on the head by a policeman on horseback. He was quite knocked out but he was okay. I didn't see him throwing anything or acting violent towards the policemen. He was just there."

What struck Matte as most peculiar was the fact that the police were confronting her group in particular.

"The police and the horses were on our side [of the street] when the crowd and the big demonstration were on the other side. We were outnumbered by the policemen. It was really excessive. I think it was more to prove a point and then impress

the people in the demonstration, saying, 'Hey, we've arrested people now, so be careful.'"

Commander Durocher, Media Relations Spokesperson for the Montreal Police, had little sympathy for the non-violent demonstrators who were arrested.

"They were charged with unlawful assembly. Anyone who was there at 5:30, after violence was incited, had no reason to think that this was still a peaceful assembly," said Durocher, referring to the Canadian right to form a peaceful assembly.

The demonstrators who lingered behind after the violence began, according to Durocher, implicated themselves simply by being there.

"Even if you didn't throw anything, you are still a part of it," said Durocher.

“Even if you didn't throw anything, you are still a part of it.”

Pierre Alain Parfond



Sarah Lazovic

“ A guy was smashed on the head by a policeman on horseback. I didn't see him throwing anything or acting violent. He was just there. ”

He defended the officers' behaviour, adding that the police did give demonstrators the opportunity to leave the scene before taking more aggressive steps.

"There's always a little delay to give to the innocent bystanders a chance to leave. We had our grounds to proceed with unlawful assembly and that's what we did. We did what we had to do.

"It's always normally the same type of groups that start [the riot]," said Durocher. He was, however, unable to pinpoint which of the several anti-G-20 groups had instigated the confrontations with the police.

Although the Tuesday's rally, organized by the Montreal Chapter of the Council of Canadians, was relatively peaceful, Nadia Alexan, its coordinator, was quite upset by the few individuals who once again provoked the police.

"There were a couple of young people who were quite disruptive and insulting," said Alexan. "When they do these things, they discredit the work that we've been doing for two months. It shifts the focus from the message to the pandemonium. Our cause is legitimate enough that it doesn't need this kind of violence."

Despite her arrest on Monday, McGill's Gabrielle Matte remains firm in her attitude towards the G-20.

“ Most of the people participating in this demonstration weren't particularly violent people. ”

"I'm against the way the capitalist system works right now and all the exploitation that happens all around the world and the IMF and World Bank being non-democratic institutions," said Matte.

She also expressed discontent with Paul Martin, Canada's Minister of Finance and the current chair of the G-20, in light of the severe cuts he made to social programs in 1995 that have yet to be fully restored.

Matte's comments echoed the views expressed Monday afternoon at the Anti G-20 Speak-Out Rally on the Redpath steps.

"The G-20 has a very narrow mandate and a narrow group of members," said Reid Allaway, organizer of the Speak-Out. "The nature of the representatives who are sitting on the G-20 is going to make it impossible for anyone to live up to anything progressive. It's just the structure. When you have a representation that's made up entirely of bank managers and finance ministers of the rich world and they're in control of the body, I can't see it coming to any beneficial ends.

"When I talk about something progressive, what I'm talking about is a substantial redistribution of wealth. That's something that Paul Martin professes as an important goal of the G-20 as part of the reform of financial institutions, but I think he's going to be stymied by the structure of the body that he's trying to do it in. I think they've got admirable goals but they're screwed from the start."

Hours later, as a crowd gathered in front of the Roddick Gates, students and activists began cheering and chanting against the G-20. Many of the protesters shared similar negative opinions about the G-20.

"It's a group of finance ministers getting together to talk about financial matters and they represent the most powerful countries in the world," said Brian Sarwer-Foner, a Ph.D. student in Communications.

"I'm against it in principle because it's part of a whole system of financial corporate control of things that subordinate all other concerns — social concerns, human rights concerns, environ-

mental concerns — to profit motives."

The march to the Sheraton Hotel on René Lévesque, where the G-20 meetings took place, was characterized by energetic yells and whistling in the streets and the supportive honking of cars along Sherbrooke and St. Catherine. As the rally approached the hotel, the excitement grew more intense. Protesters observed police dressed in riot gear standing still behind a barrier on the site of the march. Loud emotional chants spread throughout the crowd. "G-20, assassins!" "So-So-So-Solidarité!" "Paul Martin, what the fuck is wrong with you? Start doing what the people want you to!"

Amid the fervour, a man stood atop a pick-up truck and began chiding Paul Martin over the loud speaker.

"Why is it when the IMF calls you, you're there?" he asked. "Well, the IMF called you back in 1994 and they sent you a letter that's now made public because of the Access to Information

Sarah Lazorovic



Request from Halifax Initiative. The Access to Information Request revealed that there was a letter sent by the IMF to Paul Martin saying, 'Look, this is what we want you to do: we want you to cut health care, we want you to cut education and we want you to change the unemployment insurance system.' When IMF says jump, Paul Martin just asks, 'How high?'"

Paul Martin's spokesperson Scott Reid disagrees that the Finance Minister is forced by international organizations to enact policy measures that hurt the average Canadian. Instead, he feels that groups like the G-20 are needed for countries to retain some control over the direction of the global economy.

"The objective is to gather the strongest economies and some of the emerging economies at the same table," said Reid. "With the G-20, we can approach globalization so that it doesn't just work at the whim of the wealthy."

Potholes Hit Bump in the Road

BY JOSH BEITEL
Culture Vulture

The Potholes are a veteran McGill band whose sound incorporates elements of rock and funk, often including a full horn section, although you would be hard pressed to call it funk-rock. Their future is somewhat uncertain at the moment, as guitarist and vocalist Jean-Michel Cohalan will be spending the coming semester abroad. What's more, there is a strong possibility that bassist and vocalist Seamus Cowan will be leaving Montreal upon his graduation in the spring. The Potholes are currently putting the finishing touches on their first full-length CD, and its release is also the subject of some discussion. I recently sat down with two of the band's founding members, keyboardist and vocalist Antoine Gratton, and drummer Eric Biunno, to talk about the future of the band, and about their gig this Friday at the Swimming.

McGill Daily: So will the band just go on hiatus from January until whenever Jean-Michel gets back?

Antoine: That's pretty much the plan. He's leaving at the beginning of January so this will probably be the last gig.

MD: Will it have a farewell theme to it?

A: We'll try not to. We'll try to just make it a good show before everything else. It's going to be a Halloween gig, we're getting dressed up for it. It's not farewell, it's

goodbye for now and we'll see you later.

MD: So the hope is to keep The Potholes going as a band?

A: Sure.

Eric: It's not a hope.

MD: There's also the issue of the album. How will the album ever get released?

E: Because J-M is leaving for Panama, it would be a momentum inhibitor if we were to launch it before. So we'll probably have some sort of internet release, and people will still be able to buy it if they wanted to, but there wouldn't be an official launch until he comes back.

MD: If you get the album finished in November, and then you end up doing an official release for it in June or July, are you worried that the album will no longer be as 'now' as when you could've released it? That you may have evolved musically and that it will no longer be representative of your sound?

A: Well, we will have evolved musically individually, but I'm sure the sound of the band will remain the same, just because that's the way we play together.

MD: You guys go way back with the band Pigeonhole. How do you feel about their

evolution and about them having won the CHOM L'esprit competition?

A: You mean, are we jealous?

E: But it does help.

A: Just in terms of money it helps. The thing between Pigeonhole and us is more of a healthy competition than a nasty one.

D: Do you feel better about the CHOM L'esprit competition now that a typically non-CHOM band has won?

A: Yeah, I think CHOM is going to learn a thing or two now because they realize that there are other bands that exist than the ones that they've been promoting.

MD: Do you think that a certain amount of arrogance is necessary to make it to the next step? Can nice guys make it in the rock business?

E: I don't think there has to be arrogance. You can promote yourself without being arrogant about it.

A: It definitely takes balls though, that's the technical term.

MD: Balls?

E: Balls.

A: Balls. I don't know if it's a matter of arrogance, I think it's more just a matter

of believing in your product, and being confident that what you have is something that people would enjoy. There's so much other stuff than music now in the music business, there's so many other factors that you just have to believe that what you have is good, and you have to push it.

MD: Is sex appeal a big part of selling yourself? Is that something you try to achieve?

A: I think it's very important. In some areas as much as the music, in some areas more so than the music. Oftentimes performing a show is not enough, you have to really go out there and get the audience. When the audience goes to see something, they don't want to see a couple of guys sitting down, playing, and doing absolutely nothing. And of course, the first thing that people think when they're going out is sex: am I going to get laid tonight? So if you succeed in reaching that, then it will appeal to them.

E: They're low budget concerts, we don't have any super effects.

A: Yeah, there's nothing else. There's the music, but that'll only help us so far.

MD: So if they get laid as a result of having gone to one of your shows, you figure they're that much more likely to come to further shows?

A: I think so. It's positive reinforcement, basic psychology.

Get laid. Go see The Potholes this Friday at the Swimming. Costumes are encouraged.



The Potholes in their usual attire - Photo: Marc Deschamps

MD: Are you jealous and is the CHOM competition something to aspire to as an amateur band in Montreal, is it the benchmark to achieve?

E: It would be cool to win.

A: I'd like to think it's not the benchmark to achieve.

Life in Hell

TNC's "No Exit" explores the boundaries of human nature

BY SUSAN KRASHINSKY
Culture Reporter

If this is hell, I'm going to start praying right now.

Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit" is a compelling vision of the afterlife, where three sinners are condemned to spend eternity in a second empire drawing room with each other. The play revolves around their subsequent interaction and realisation that torture comes not through whips and chains but through each other's company. Intellectually, this is a very enjoyable play. Sartre's observations about deceit and the tenuous state of human significance are exceptional. However, Tuesday Night Café Theatre's production, now playing at Morris Hall, leaves something to be desired.

The aesthetic of the production was fine. The costumes, obviously pieced

together from Village des Valeurs classics really do the trick, and the scenery and lighting is appropriately sparse. The only fault on this front is the mysterious bronze statue, which looks more like a really big mound of cigarette foils.

This minimalist set design leaves the focus on the actors, whose performances are so close to being genuine that they are sometimes frustrating to watch.

Jean Zigby seems nervous as Garcin, the misogynistic journalist concerned only with himself. His delivery is rapid and panicky.

Maya Goldenberg's portrayal of Inez, the gaunt lesbian postal worker is occasionally subtle and evocative, but mostly her performance looks forced. Directors should not cast themselves, unless they are extremely talented actors. Maya Goldenberg badly needs the guidance of an outsider, something no director, no matter how talented, can adequately pro-

vide for him or herself.

Quinn Fletcher provides the casual sarcastic wit as the Valet which makes him such a delightful character, but he holds back and fails to turn Hell's bellboy into the show-stealing bit part it could be.

Charlene Coté is the exception here. She plays Estelle, the self-centred Parisian gold-digger with poise and energy. As the characters' true natures show through the course of the play, it turns



Welcome to Hell

out Estelle has the worst secret of all. Yet Coté manages to play this loathsome character with sympathy and a certain

amount of grace.

What fails the actors most is their lack of co-operation. The dialogue sounds more like a series of independent statements than a coherent unit of conversation, and even when laying hands on each other the actors often seem caught in their own character's world.

In the end, though, that is exactly what "No Exit" is about. Each of these people is here because they have lived their lives wanting only what is best for themselves. "Hell," Garcin concludes, "is other people." For these three narcissists, hell is being inextricably linked to the group, condemned to be "people who need people" for the rest of eternity.

The audience, as Goldenberg points out in her program notes, also has "No Exit," metaphorically. After being linked with this production for ninety minutes (no intermission) I emerged wanting to live my life more than I have in a long

time. In that aspect, TNC's production was true to its subject.

No Exit continues at TNC until Saturday at Morris Hall.



Strategies of Containment at TNC

Life Not Beachy If You're Murdered

Psycho Beach Party tolerable, but fails to inspire

BY MARIE ARNOT
Culture Reporter

Bikinis and blood are not a usual combination, but following the recent trend of mocking once-popular genres, *Psycho Beach Party* makes the best of this somewhat random juxtaposition.

Psycho Beach Party tells the tale of a group of 1950's surf kids from California who encounter numerous grizzly murders throughout their care-free summer. The movie, which was shown at the Sundance Film Festival, is once again a parody of all those old horror flicks that were so popular and enjoyable way back before your typical 90's *Scream*-esque movie.

Psycho Beach Party stars the young Lauren Ambrose as Chicklet Forrest, a misunderstood, sheltered teen who lacks self confidence in her sex appeal. Despite her needy friend Bernadine's (Danni Wheeler) wishes, Chicklet joins up with a bunch of surfer slacker guys and tries to learn the art of surfing from surf god Kanaka (Thomas Gibson). Chicklet even has an unrequited love interest in Starcat (Nicholas Brendon), another super-cool surfer guy.

Everything is going well until Chicklet starts displaying multiple personalities. At the same time, several young teens in the town turn up murdered, and police captain Monica Stark starts investigating. There is a creepy beach house near the surf spot that is known to be haunted by a family who was murdered by their son many years before, so he starts his research there. In another interesting development, Chicklet's foreign exchange student Lars (Matt Keeslar), bears an uncanny resemblance to a picture of the murder-

er's son. In the end, the real (predictable) truth comes out about the murders in the beach town.

The film is intended to be a satire of the 1950s' beach party/horror flicks, and it does a good job of imitating those paltry films made long ago. Watching this movie made me feel as if I were watching an episode of *Scooby Doo* (minus Scooby, sadly). The way Chicklet embarks on a mission to solve the mystery and how it all leads to the one character you didn't think it would be, is really reminiscent of the

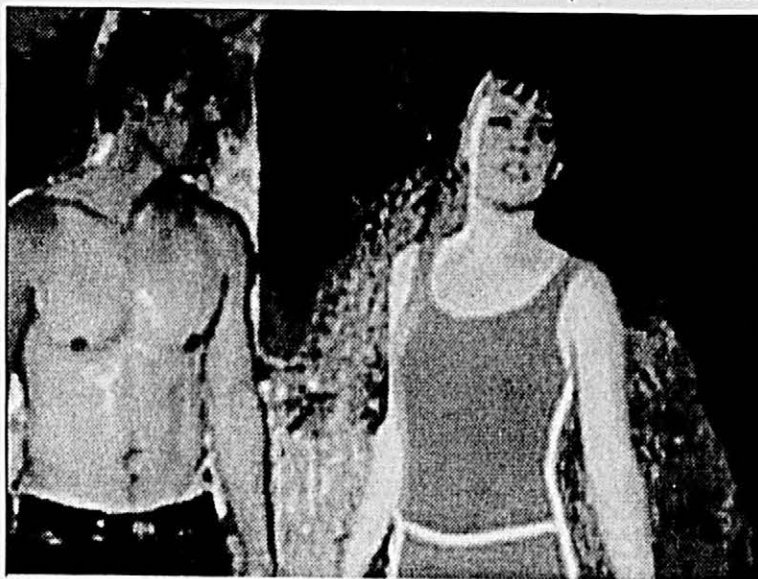


Mother and daughter check out the prospects

Scooby genre. All mysteries tend to fit a certain template, but what made this film entertaining was the inclusion of the surf culture with all of its lingo and weird practices. It was obviously meant to be a representation of this type of surf movie, but it was hardly frightening compared to most recent scary movies.

Since no film is complete these days without a political angle, there are scenes in the film that point to the apprehensiveness towards homosexual acceptance in the '50s. Bernadine has

an underlying romantic attraction to the blond, bouncy Chicklet, and two of the surfer guys are in a homosexual relationship. These contributes to the way that many 90s influences are evident in the satire. As a parody of other movies, *Psycho Beach Party* is effective, but as a comedy it lacks something. If you have seen beach party flicks before, then you might have an appreciation for the humour and you might understand the film better, but if you are an avid viewer of predictable *Scream* movies, you may be disappointed.



Hardly your average day at the beach.

Upside-down Dogs On Film

Sicilian collective focuses upon the deconstruction of meaning

BY CHRIS O'MEARA
Culture Reporter

In a society filled with a frightening and often disorienting abundance of information, social critics, writers and sociologists might ask how advertising and pop culture actually come to have meaning for the masses. Many do not touch upon this question, for its abstract nature makes it a hard sell in a world where a sitcom's canned laughter becomes bellwether by which one's appreciation of humour is constructed. The mechanism of media has created systems of meaning which define our lives for us rather than vice versa, and questioning the structure and function of it becomes a daunting, complex task.

This is where Cane CapoVolto (Italian for Dog Upside-Down) has focused its attention in the short series of constructed documentaries of "found footage" which demonstrate how the spectacles of mass culture come to have meaning, or more correctly, how they have no meaning at all.

In *The Plagium Project*, the question of humanity's agency in a world saturated with often misunderstood and subversive information is being addressed with the post-modern implements of deconstruction and Saussurian linguistics. Through this video piece, the filmmakers engage in an act of cultural bricolage and demon-

strate that popular culture (and any system of constructed meaning for that matter) is a chaotic mess pasted together by the human mind's need for coherence. Meaning becomes completely subjective, and the phenomenal world a shifting maelstrom of sign systems where even the most personal and unique of thoughts is likely an artificial construction.

What must be done is to step behind these sign systems to the pure abstractness of human thought where one must come to the conclusion that meaning does not exist, but is rather superimposed upon conscious reality and the external world. Of course, there is a looming sense of irony around the whole subject, for if meaning is artificial, how could the filmmakers ever properly demonstrate it without undermining their own project? This question is addressed by the film's chaotic, disorienting nature, shifting and flashing images in a dizzying fashion while the narrator's observations never truly match what is occurring on screen.

This creates the impression of confusion and uncertainty which is at the heart of Cane Capo Volto's intent. To facilitate understanding of this exposition, the presentation is accompanied by a handout describing some of the collective's main objectives. One of their concerns is the fact that information is too often misun-



derstood in regards to its mutability as a constructed system (thereby making its deconstruction possible), and so the discovery "...that going beyond what is the 'signified'...could reveal astonishing abysses" and so they "decided to concen-

trate on the side of effects of non-comprehension". The result of non-comprehension is the perpetuation of nonsense, and surely in a world where popular culture and media has infiltrated our lives with the meaningless and the disposable, this

Cute, but do dogs really watch television? film will be of concern to anybody concerned about societal decay.

Visit The Plagium Project for free at article's video room, 4001 Rue Berri, until November 12.

Grotesque Fun

Festival Macabre is so good, it's scary

BY JESSE GRYN
The McGill Daily

Festival Macabre is now in the second week of its second year and still going strong.

Last weekend, the Imperial theatre was home to Peter Pringle and the Theremin - the musical instrument that is essentially a box with antennas sticking out of it that one plays without actually touching. If you haven't heard of it you've certainly heard it in the multitude of horror and science fiction films in which it is featured - it's the innovation responsible for those weird "woooooo" sounds. It was a very interesting evening and all in attendance learned a great deal about the bizarre instrument and its equally bizarre history (for example, its creator Leonard Theremin was abducted by the KGB and made to work on electronic listening devices). All, that is, aside from a handful of Theremin aficionados whose vast knowledge of Theremin-related trivia finally paid off in the form of a couple of door prizes.

Next weekend, Macabre once again treats Montreal to two very talented performers, Rick Miller and Grae Phillips.

"It is probably the most incredible combination of performers in Montreal right now," boasted festival organizer Craig Francis. Any one who isn't dead or comatose will have heard of Rick Miller by now, usually in the context of his now internationally acclaimed show *MacHomer*. Rick will be returning to Macabre with *Me Myself and MacHomer*, a mockumentary which includes excerpts from his three other staggeringly popular shows, *MacHomer*, *...Art?* and *Slightly Bent*. If



I beseech your attendance friends

you have somehow managed to avoid seeing Rick Miller perform live, this show provides the perfect opportunity to get a decent overview of his illustrious career. Opening for Rick is the equally talented Grae Phillips. Fellow Fringe Festival success story, Grae is the talent that brought us *Everybody's F*cking But Me*. Grae will be playing some favorite songs from that show as well as songs from her upcoming CD, *Speak Low*. Grae Phillips puts on a very impressive show, and must be seen live to be fully appreciated. "Grae is such an incredible performer and amazing singer that you would absolutely buy the fact that it is a woman on stage," said Francis. And he's right, Grae is utterly convincing thanks in part to his superb voice. So if you missed Grae Phillips at the Fringe and again at last year's Macabre this is a truly stunning show not to be overlooked.

And let us not forget that from beginning to end, Festival Macabre offers us a constant flow of horror films at the Cinema du Parc. If you haven't been making it out so far, then you've missed the bisexual vampire women of Jose Larraz's *Vampyres*, the Frankenstein-created women of the eponymous *Hammer* horror film, and the hordes of zombies in Romero's apocalyptic *Day of the Dead*. But the festival isn't over yet, and cat people, cannibals, and even Dracula himself are soon to be found lurking in this cinema of the damned!



Grae Phillips applies the wax

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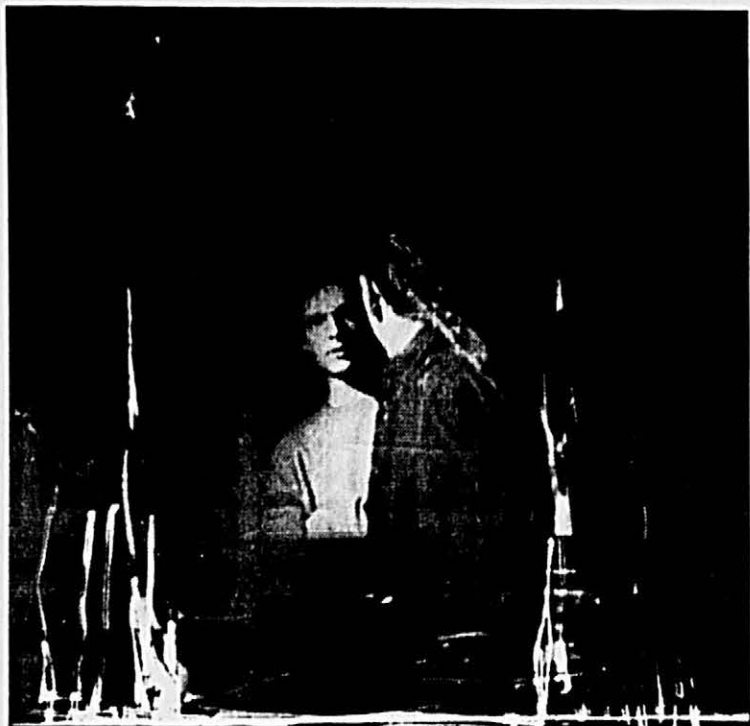
Les Nuits Blanches Shivers

Highlights: Wetfish takes on horror and suspense classics Nosferatu, Hitchcock

BY JESSE GRYN
Culture Reporter

This Halloween, festival-junkies will be presented with a wide assortment of horror-cinema to choose from – including everything from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* to the Fantasia

Halloween. One event that definitely should not be missed out on is the first-ever presentation of "Les Nuits Blanches" at the inspiring Imperial cinema. This series of concerts accompanied by projections will include the much-anticipated return of Wetfish's *Nosferatu* as well as three newly conceived Wetfish productions.



The mirror has two faces.

Last year's screening of *Nosferatu* enticed several hundred children of the night to experience the landmark horror film as it has never before been... heard. The film was accompanied by the live performance of a soundtrack produced by the duo Wetfish. Performed by a highly eclectic ensemble of musicians – including throat singers, a didgeridooist, DJs, violinists and even a "human drum n' bass," the silent horror film of the 1920's was remade into a terribly exciting live event.

"Nosferatu was Wetfish's biggest success to date, and we wanted to continue exploring of that kind of work – sound tracks for images," says Sandro Forte who is half of Wetfish (along with James Duhamel). So it is that this Halloween, Wetfish will be back not only with the tried and true *Nosferatu*, but also with three new shows that together make up "Les Nuits Blanches."

"The four shows that make up Nuits Blanches are all concerts with projections, but each has an entirely different approach," says Forte. For instance, for the Wetfish vs. Hitchcock show, Wetfish reinvent the music of Bernard Herrmann; specifically eight of his scores for classic Alfred Hitchcock films such as



Looking for candy and a manicure.

Vertigo, *The Birds* and *Psycho*. Forte explains that "Nosferatu is an entire movie, there is a story line to follow. Wetfish vs. Hitchcock is a scratch video, meaning images without a story line." These are hardly new and uncharted waters for soundtrack experts Forte and Duhamel. However, Wetfish is certainly expanding its horizons (within the bounds of cinematic concerts) and are have moved beyond the limits of simply reworking entire soundtracks (as with Wetfish's *Nosferatu* and their also very popular version of *Metropolis*).

"Histoires de fantomes Chinois (not to be confused with the unrelated Chinese Ghost Story films that were a Fantasia staple) is in fact not a film at all, but is an experiment in music and images," says Forte. Wetfish will once again call on ethnologist, musician and Tuvan throat singer Bernard Dubreuil. This time to relate somewhat abstract stories (in French) as well as sing. Dubreuil's singing/story telling will be accompanied by music composed by Wetfish and projections of paintings actually being painted live by artist Genevieve Oligny (who did the freaky cover art for the *Nosferatu* CD).

Finally, "Les Fete des Morts" returns for two nights with not only new soundtracks, but new films as well! "La Fete des Morts is actually a night of films made especially to be screened with live musical accompaniment," elucidates Forte. Ah, just like the good old days... well perhaps not quite.

Les Nuits Blanches at Cinema Imperial. Histoire de fantomes Chinois: Sunday Oct. 29, 15h. Wetfish vs. Hitchcock: Sunday Oct 29, 19h. Nosferatu - The vampire: Monday Oct. 30, 19h. Les Fete des Morts - 2nd edition: Tuesday 31 Oct & Wednesday Nov 1.

There, But For Fortune, Go You or I...

The National Theatre School's performance of Problem Child is fortunate indeed

BY ADRIENNE LACHAPELLE
The McGill Daily

Bob Dylan's lyrics are an appropriate introduction for the remarkable *Problem Child*, a work of theatre whose agenda is to focus the spotlight on the lives of the disadvantaged and downtrodden in order to give their plight substance and voice. Playwright George F. Walker sketches characters who are the self-proclaimed "Scum of the Earth" and makes their crises important and eternal. In a script that walks the line between hope and horror, *Problem Child* tackles a number of painful issues that plague modern society. However, the one central concern that is repeated throughout the dialogue is "Where is the justice in this world?"

George F. Walker knows the territory that his characters inhabit and understands the questions they ask. Born and raised in Toronto's East End working district, Walker was a taxi driver for some years until his first play was performed in 1972. His familiarity with the idiom and affairs of people in all walks of life is evident in the characters he creates and the themes he chooses to

explore. These are not heroes and princesses whose tragedies shake kingdoms; these are the debauched, the desolate, the hunted and the mistaken for whom life is unjust and unrelenting.

The graduating class of the National Theatre School is performing *Problem Child* and two other plays from *Suburban Motel* (1999): *Featuring Loretta* and *End of Civilization*. *Suburban Motel* is an anthology of 6 one-act plays that depict an array of disadvantaged characters and troubling scenarios. Although the plots of these plays are unconnected, each piece takes place in the same, lonely motel room. In George F. Walker's work the National Theatre School has found material that both engages the audience and shows the flair of this group's acting capabilities.

Problem Child recounts the tribulations of R.J., a ex-convict and Denise, a drug addict, who are holed up in a motel room waiting to have their daughter returned to them from foster care. R.J. is devoted to making a new life for himself and his family. He is a T.V. talk-show aficionado and criticizes the tastelessness and injustice that is the mainstay of these programs. To counter R.J.'s optimism, Denise is an irrational and moody

character who feels that her "new life" will only begin when her baby is returned to her care.

But despairingly, Denise is convinced that she and R.J. are condemned by society and will never be treated as persons. She thinks Helen, the social worker, is treating them unjustly and standing in their way of reclaiming the baby. Denise enlists the help of Phillie, the alcoholic motel attendant to help her in a ploy to set the matter right. What ensues is a series of unnerving events that show the extent of Denise's desperation, the folly of R.J.'s misguided hope and the unfortunate circumstances that sealed their fate in the first place.

The crew of actors under Allen McInnis' direction is vivid and renders Walker's script genuine and believable. The actors portray emotions of desperation and frustration, sympathy and candour that not only give life to their characters but also to the dilemma of the real people these personalities represent. Walker successfully draws attention to those persons who are relegated to the margins of society and who live and die being overlooked and unjustly treated.

In performing *Problem Child*, the National Theatre School introduces its

audience to an important aspect of theatre: social critique. Through their roles, these actors interpret distinct ways of asking the question: "where is the justice in our society?" Where is the justice in Denise's life and in R.J.'s, what entitles them to this "justice" and who awards it? These are questions that George F. Walker boldly presents in *Problem Child*. He asks his audience to empathize with his characters and forces us to consider what injustices we

might suffer if Fortune were not there to intervene.

Suburban Motel plays at the National Theatre School of Canada from October 23rd to 28th. Performances are at 8 pm and 10 pm nightly except Saturday when they are at 4 pm and 6 pm. The National Theatre School is located at 1182 St. Laurent Blvd. Tickets cost 5 \$. For more information and ticket reservations call: 871-2224.

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GIRL IN A CBC STUDIO

By MARY PEATE

SHORELINE

198 pp.

Remember the episode of *The Wonder Years* where Kevin's mother forbids him to play football with his buddies after school? Kevin decides to go and play anyway, and to his cringing embarrassment, his mom shows up "yoo-hooing" to him from their colossal station wagon. These are the types of suburban mini-catastrophes that Mary Peate – comedy writer, radio broadcaster, jazz aficionado, housewife, and mother extraordinaire – relates in her book, *Girl in a CBC Studio*.

Through seven years of collected anecdotes from her weekly jazz show, *Ten & Trumpets*, Peate takes us through the milestones and everyday events of interest between the years of 1958 and 1965 in which this internationally broadcast program aired. The narrative about her effort to get the Francophone garbage man to remove her old trash can proves to be the most memorable of the bunch; the man never gets past his bewilderment of this empty trash can being put out for him week after week by a flailing-armed, English-babbling woman.

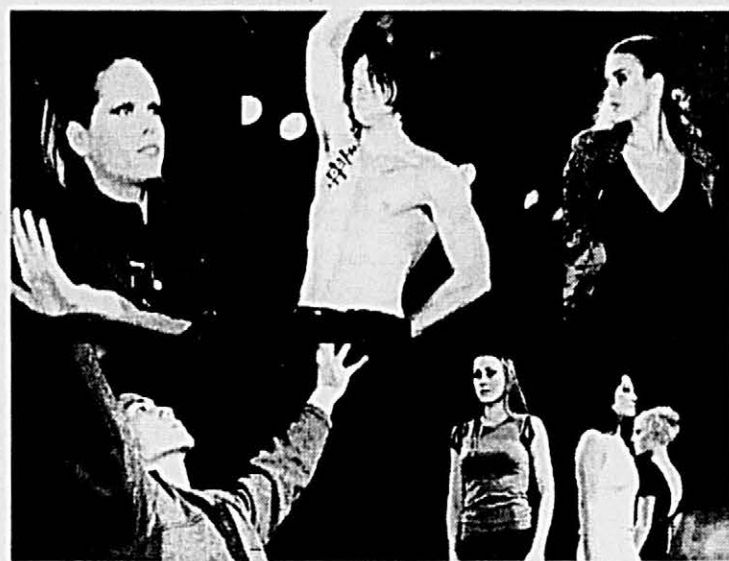
Stereotypes of the era provide ample material for the author to manipulate. The book is dedicated to "all of the concerned housewives of the 1950s who...worried about 'waxy build-up' on their floors, and if the neighbours' wash was whiter than theirs."

The current concerns over urban sprawl and the values fostered in suburban neighbourhoods makes *Girl in a CBC Studio* especially relevant. Peate speaks of her and her husband's struggle to strike a balance between privacy and community in the dually pegged anonymous/voyeuristic suburbs that were so accurately depicted in last year's buzz film *American Beauty*. She concludes with the now widely held opinion that homogenous surroundings are well-suited to couples in mid-life who thank the world for its eccentricities (but have had quite enough, thank you very much), yet they deprive children of necessary stimuli. Her liberal mindedness, even today, is striking.

Although the construction of the comedic craft sometimes shows through in her passages, to end up sounding forced, she capably transforms her own triumphs and terrors into universal maps of feeling. Through this quaintly hilarious look at mid-century suburban life, Mary Peate makes her measured revolt against the "Chesterfieldian Urbanity" of her time a very worthy cause indeed. —*She-Li McKnight*



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Mind & Body

Aromatherapy

Smells like Stress Relief

BY SARI LONG
The McGill Daily

The first thing one thinks when they see the word "aromatherapy" tends to be, "Ah yes, that hippie fad thing where you sniff stuff." In the world of alternative and holistic medicine, however, aromatherapy is much more than that. Aromatherapy, as defined by Aveda, is the "art and science of pure plant and flower essences." Another common definition states that it is "the therapeutic use of aromatic substances." Medically speaking, this definition of aromatherapy is closer to the intent and purpose of the art, both historically and functionally.

Aromatherapy is not, contrary to popular belief, a recent fad. It has existed for thousands of years in various forms. The ancient Egyptians not only used essential oils for perfumes, such substances as myrrh, cedarwood and incense were employed in their elaborate funeral and temple rituals. Indian literature from 2000 BC documents the therapeutic and mythical use of ginger, myrrh, cinnamon and coriander while the Chinese, with their elaborate alternative medical traditions, used aromatherapy in conjunction with acupuncture and herbal remedies.

It wasn't until 1928 that the term "aromatherapy" was used, when Rene-Maurice Gattefosse, a French chemist, realized the power of lavender in treating his own burns. More recently, Dr. Jean Valet treated medical and psychiatric disorders with essential oils and published his findings in 1964. Today, aromatherapy is a growing part of holistic and alternative medical treatments as well as finding its niche in amateur circles.

The basis for aromatherapy lies in its extensive use of essential oils, which are pure, concentrated plant extracts obtained specifically for their fragrance and reputed therapeutic value. Essential oils are extracted from flowers, herbs, spices, woods and fibers, usually by distillation, expression and solvent extraction and are not necessarily in oil form. They can be liquid, semi-solid or solid and do not leave oily residue on the skin, as they evaporate on exposure to air. There is evidence that essential oils can trigger a neurochemical release in the brain via receptors in the nose and mouth if inhaled as a vapor.

One basic tenet of aromatherapy is that of all the five senses, smell has the strongest link into the subconscious. Massage, however, is considered to be the most effective form of aromatherapy, as

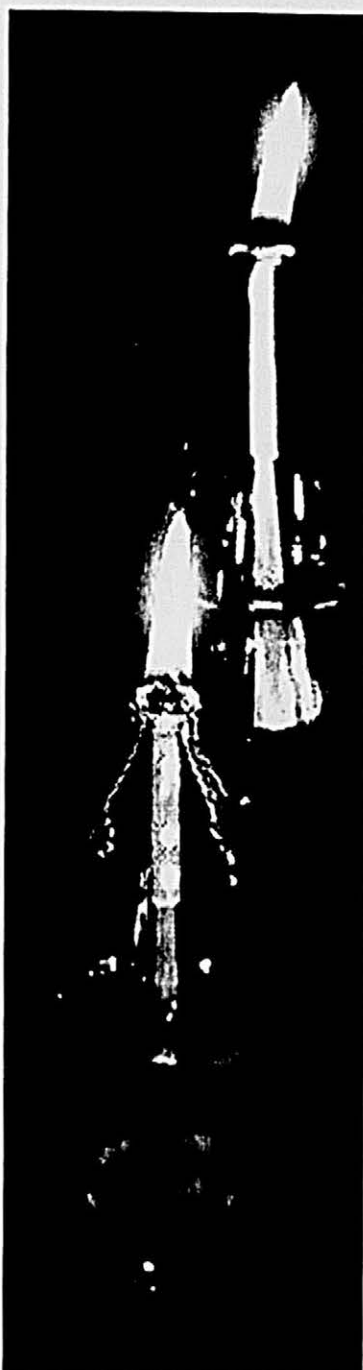
touch, smell and, if music is used, hearing are all affected by the treatment.

While little research has been conducted to prove the medical efficacy of aromatherapy claims, there is anecdotal evidence that aromatherapy works. Its proponents claim that it works to cure or relieve the symptoms of anything from arthritis to indigestion to head lice. Most commonly, however, aromatherapy is employed for psychosomatic afflictions such as headaches, muscle tension, anxiety and other stress-related problems. The key to its perceived efficacy lies in the psychology and connection between the mind and body. Aromatherapists use a created atmosphere and the patient's willingness to relax and as another way to relieve tension build-up. When immersing oneself in a rosewood scented bath, while listening to Enya and lighting chamomile candles, it becomes difficult to be constantly thinking about an impending exam. Following up this idyllic bath by slipping into lavender-scented sheets may just be enough to ease anxieties and allow a peaceful night's rest.

Nawel Bailey, a U3 political science major, is an amateur aromatherapy advocate. "Before my LSAT's, I went and had a massage with essential oils. It was very relaxing and therapeutic," Sasha Goldstein, a U2 Middle Eastern studies and political science student, concurred. "My mother is into aromatherapy. I use lavender for my allergies, and it totally works," she said. "And essential oils are really good for massage," she added knowingly.

Advocates of aromatherapy are quick to point out that though the use of essential oils is relaxing and may have therapeutic properties, there are some dangers involved. Because the oils themselves are so potent, it is dangerous for individuals with certain conditions to use them. Pregnant women need to be especially careful about which oils they use, as rumors of bleeding and possible abortion exist. However, there is no documented evidence to support these rumors. Nonetheless, people with sensitive skin may also find that the oils are irritating, and most oils should not be used at full strength to begin with. Use of a carrier oil, which is neutral, is necessary for direct skin contact.

Despite criticisms of aromatherapy's efficacy and its rumoured dangers, it is here to stay. Its use in combating stress and anxiety make it invaluable for average students, but always be sure to consult an aromatherapist or a reliable book before embarking on an aromatic adventure.



These aromatherapy candles are deliciously mmm-mmm-snifferific

ESSENTIAL OILS OF AROMATHERAPY

Basil-Upset stomachs, clarifying, stimulating, uplifting, aids concentration, skin abrasions. Thought to be a heart tonic. Moderately toxic; possible skin irritant and carcinogen. Avoid if pregnant.

Chamomile-Excellent for skin care - allergies, eczema, insect bites, wounds. Muscular pain, neuralgia, rheumatism, sprains and burns. Headaches, insomnia, migraine, stress - well known for calming effect on nervous system.

Cinnamon-Circulation, rheumatism, digestion, spasms, colds, flu. Some use in stress relief. Makes a very warming massage blend - good for rheumatism.

Eucalyptus-Powerful antiseptic and healing agent. Renowned for treatment of respiratory complaints - often used in inhalants. Can relieve fever and skin irritations. Head-clearing, uplifting, refreshing. Good insect repellent - esp. cockroaches and silverfish.

Ginger-muscle problems, arthritis, rheumatism, poor circulation, coughs, sore throat, nausea, colds, flu. Also noted for its decongesting properties.

Jasmine-Antidepressant, analgesic and reputed aphrodisiac. Often used to treat problems with the nervous system such as

anxiety and stress. Jasmine oil is also regarded as a good skin tonic - it softens and smoothes tired skin. Possible use for some respiratory illnesses.

Lavender-The most universal of all essential oils. Many uses including skin care, circulation, muscles, joints, digestive, immune system. Sheets washed in lavender are thought to promote sleep.

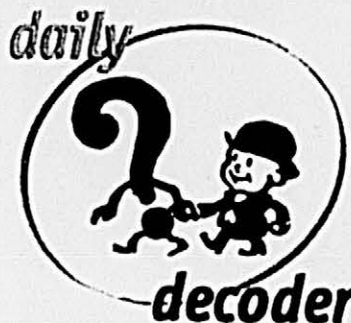
Patchouli-Good antiseptic, eg. minor burns and cracked skin. Calming action. Aphrodisiac.

Rose-A truly feminine oil renowned for its sensual fragrance and calming/balancing nature. It is traditionally used as an antidepressant and for nervousness, sadness and stress.

Tea Tree-Strong antiseptic, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, anti-viral, fungicidal properties. Used for a variety of skin complaints like athlete's foot, boils, herpes, ulcers, psoriasis, warts.

Ylang Ylang-Aphrodisiac properties due to intense flowery scent. Anti-depressant. Euphoric qualities. Balancing effect on blood pressure and distressed breathing patterns.

-from *Amateur Aromatherapy*, <http://dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/avenue/as07/oildata.htm>



BY IAN MACKELLAR
The McGill Daily

Can my friends and I rent Leacock 132 for a party?

A good question, and one that has been asked too often by too many students to go without an answer. After all, the cavernous concrete confines, faulty PA, and all-around lovey vibes of Leacock 132 create a perfect atmosphere for a variety of drunken shenanigans. According to Livia Nardina at Dawson Hall, students can indeed rent Leacock 132 and "most other rooms on campus as well." So the plot thickens. A representative of McGill's Ancillary Services states that "the facilities should be made available, when possible, to members of the

McGill community for what may be described as their extracurricular activities." Top priority goes to activities of the academic variety, while those that are "less closely related to the main pursuits of the university should be given a lesser priority." Makes sense. Unfortunately, by decree of Ancillary Services, it is neither permissible to make a profit by charging an entry fee to your party, nor is it acceptable to bribe a Building Director. The university, furthermore, discourages the use of excessive volume or abuse of PA equipment because their first interest is "to protect campus activities from interference by the loudspeaker apparatus." The implicit goal of the university, clearly, is to temper the "groovy vibes" of your party with some good old 'squareness.' For more information, visit the Ancillary Services website.

Where can I get some Tang?

A mixture of water with a spoonful of "aromatic, orangy-tasting powder," Tang was first marketed by General Foods in 1959 as a "breakfast beverage." Tang reflected a growing American interest in all things modern and scientific—the creation

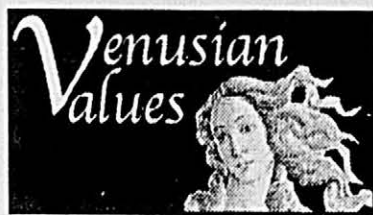
of a newer, bolder, and more convenient way of living brought about by dehydrated products and household robots. Instant coffee, TV dinners, and dehydrated cabbage salads liberally dotted the landscape of American consciousness. According to the *Monsanto Magazine*, the breakfast of the future would consist of Tang, instant coffee, and "an instant, king-sized steak—made of beef-flavoured corn cereal-sizzling in the breakfast skillet." Tang was used in Tangy cookies, Tangy coffeecakes, and Tangy screwdrivers. In 1965, the drink was taken on board the space-shuttles Gemini IV and Gemini V, and in 1969, it went to the moon; Tang's place as a futuristic "Space Drink" was thereby assured. Despite a backlash in the 1970's against industrially-processed foods and beverages, Tang assured itself a place in modern mythology because of its strange orangy zest. Beldar Conehead consumed it dry, straight from the jar, along with his "average American breakfast of shredded swine flesh and fried chicken embryos." Tang is available at your local grocery mart.

Got any questions for the Decoder?
Send them to decoder@mcgilldaily.com

be sassy like pepsi! write for mind&body! meetings at 5 on fridays!

Love 'Em and Leave 'Em

Are women starting to have sex like men?



BY ANI DI NEEDLES
The McGill Daily

Of late, a common proud claim of many supposedly sexually liberated heterosexual women is that they have sex "like a man." Now, given that certain anatomical constraints make this a physical impossibility (unless they are referring obliquely to the "woman-on-top" position, or the ability to be satisfied very, very rapidly), many would be inclined to question exactly what this definition of manly sex implies. And why, indeed, in this extremely liberal age where females are finally considered to be, for the most part, equal in worth to males, is being able to perform like a man so much a thing to be proud of?

It would seem that a woman who believes she has sex like a man is referring, in fact, to that which has given men such a bad rap as lovers: sexual hedonism. In other words, men are notorious for engaging in sex wherein their only intention is to derive pleasure for themselves. After they're done, as soon as they can muster the strength, they supposed lyran away into the night, laughing evilly, leaving behind yet another physically and emotionally unsatisfied woman to contemplate the abandonment of heterosexuality.

So now it's cool for women to do the same thing? Perhaps it is sort of a vengeful reaction on the part of those who have experienced the unpleasant deeds of Hedonist Man that more and more women are making claims to using sex exclusively for pleasure and notching their bedposts in what they expect is the approved masculine fashion. Thank the media as well: in the past five or so years powerful women have been portrayed as those who have broken the sexual glass ceiling by being promiscuous and dismissive of their partners.

But wait just one red-hot minute, y'all! If male sexual hedonists have been mistreating women for all these years, why are we now adopting this unpleasant and unfriendly behavior? Some might say that it is a case of fighting fire with fire, but isn't it also the case that if some-

one does something appalling to you, doing it right back to him is merely a way of approving his unseemly actions? Rare is the woman who goes around bragging that she is able to emulate one of the other unattractive stereotypes slapped on men by society. ("I smell like a man! No, really!")

Basically, if given the choice, nobody really wants to sleep with a sexual hedonist, except of course the hedonist him or herself. No activity that involves two people is enjoyable if one is ignoring the other as he or she pursues self-centered gain. You wouldn't want to have a conversation with someone who doesn't listen to you, so why are you jumping into bed with him? (Drunkenness, while a fairly viable excuse, is probably not one that will garner much sympathy.)

This is not to say that every kind of sexual encounter necessarily requires a deep, emotional connection between those involved or even the promise of anything in the future. Although many people do find that the best kind of sex happens within the bounds of a relationship that ensures an extra degree of comfort which precludes embarrassment, it is important that no matter who you're having sex with, you both should be having a good time. Achieving that means that even in the throes of your own pleasure, you should pay attention to the other person who is present. To do so is not to be weak and girly: it's just being nice, and unless you are really a heartless individual, you will probably find that following the golden rule ("do unto others as you'd have them do to you") will make you less inclined to regret what (and who) you did last night.

And as for those who persist in being greedy bastards? It's often not difficult to figure out who they are going to be before your clothes are off, even if you are swayed to some extent by astonishing good looks. Chant, "President Clinton, President Clinton," and turn away. Let them please themselves without involving you.

Venusian Values, a sex column from a female point of view, will alternate with Post-Hippo, John LaSere's shockingly frank column. Do you have sex-related questions, exciting stories to relate, or relationship advice you'd like to offer to the Daily's thousands of readers? Of course you do! Write to mindnbody@mcgilldaily.com and get a considered female perspective.

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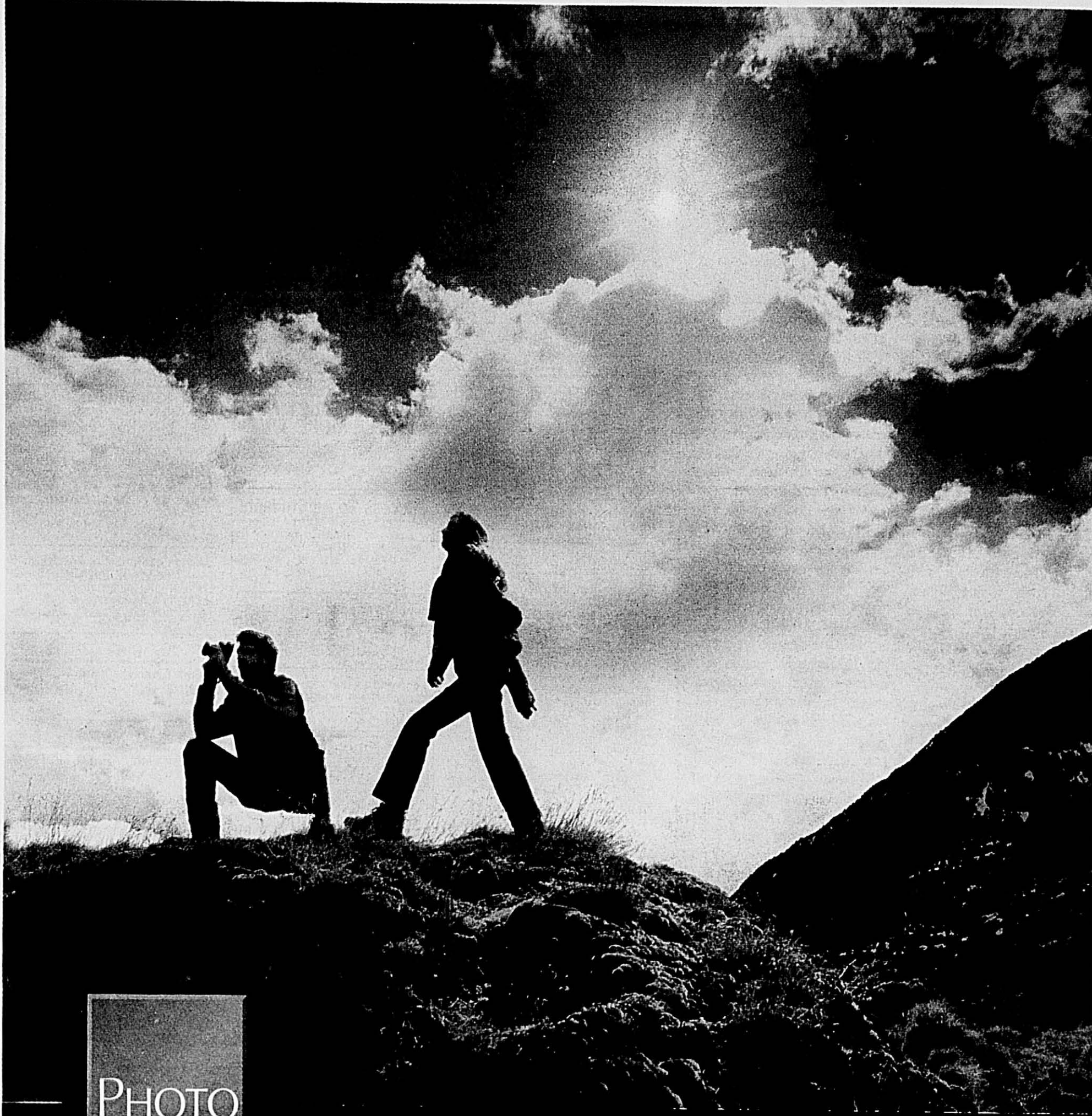


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